October 29, 1956

Dear Norton:

That was terrible new about Mark Adams. Szilard told me about it the day after.

I don't know what more Esther and I could say about "delysogenizing" with UV than is already given in Genetics, 1953, 38:p.54. This is cited again in our paper in the Sept. Genetics on the heterogenotes. Mainly, Esther has gotten to be very acute at noticing the colony appearance.

Ted Park and I have been in touch about penicillin action: he has identified his UDP conjugates as being hooked up with a 2-lactyl-3-glucosamine residue, and has found the same residue in cell wall preps. Ergo he reaches the same conclusions about m/o penicillin. He will have a note in Science with the usual cross-acknowledgments.

Nothing more fruitful about L-colonies, but this will gratify you: in india-ink preps, the protoplasts of K-12 do show a definite clear zone or capsule. I don't know if this is the remains of the "wall" or of the K antigen. As Ørskovs are now here (with about 400 serums they brought from Copenhagen!) we have a chance to go after this by serological methods. Have you looked at the lysozyme-protoplasts this way? Would you? (Not fair to use strain B; I don't know how it looks).

Yours,

*which might be wrong in detail; it's a fair bet some wall-building reaction is out, but it doesn't have to be the polymerase itself. Until it's tested, it might be the synthesis of the amino-sugar, for example. It's not DAP synthesis.